

The Pocahontas Times.

Vol. 27, No. 7

Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, September 17 1908

\$1.00 A Year

WAYSIDE NOTES.

Paper No. 2.

In the former paper, the dedication of Baxter meeting house was described. In this paper something will be written about the organization of the Baxter church. About a year after the dedication, by the order of Greenbrier Presbytery, Baxter church was organized with sixteen members detached from Liberty church. This Presbyterian duty was discharged by the Rev. J. C. Barr. Robert D. McCutcheon and Robert Curry were the ruling elders chosen and ordained August 21st, 1859, and with fourteen others for charter members thereupon Baxter church became an organized congregation in connection with Greenbrier Presbytery. Mrs. Matilda Craig was one of these original members. Her daughter, Mrs. Caroline Warwick, was one also. Mrs. Craig's eldest son, Rev. John Newton Craig, D. D., became one of the most prominent ministers of his time in the Southern Presbyterian Assembly as Secretary of Home Missions. He died October 27, 1900, on the platform of the Virginia synod at Newport News, in the act of concluding a fervent home mission appeal. His last words being, "My time is up. I must quit." Rev. A. H. Hamilton, one of the pastors of Baxter church, was the first to reach and assist the falling dying minister. The scene was one of the most thrilling that has ever occurred at a meeting of synod, so far as remembered. Upon Dr. Barr's resignation he was succeeded by Rev. Robert P. Kennedy, from Philadelphia, in 1859. His home was in the bounds of Baxter church at Mr. B. D. McCutcheon's residence and thus he shared with his people of the Baxter, Liberty, and Pisgah churches, the privations and exciting vicissitudes of the wartimes between the states that soon came on. In 1867 he accepted calls to Windy Cove and Warm Springs churches in Lexington Presbytery. As an illustration of what he endured during his ministry at Baxter church, notice the following incident. In 1864 while pastor Kennedy was on his way to meet appointments in Highland county, he was surprised and arrested near Monterey. Kenon, a colored man belonging to the late Hon. Wm. Weir Fleming, of Monterey, Va., begged for the young preacher's release. He most emphatically assured the Federal officer "that the little man could not possibly do them any harm, for all the sense he had anyhow was just sense enough to preach a little." It looked at first as if the sympathetic negro might succeed, but when it was found out this preacher was a native of Pennsylvania it was all to no purpose. The officer seemed impressed with the conviction, and a patriotic sense of duty, an object lesson was needed. So to make treason duly odious the young preacher was marched afoot to McDowell, nine miles eastward, thence northward fifteen or twenty miles to Crabbottom Presbyterian church to be utilized for barracks for some days. He marched afoot, waded the swollen streams, the water being of icy coolness. During the halt at the church barracks, a Sabbath intervened, and the captive preacher was importuned to hold religious services. He declined for the reason that such was the frame of his mind that he felt totally impressed to say or even pray for anything that might be acceptable to his audience. After a session of badgering admonition the docile prisoner was permitted to return homeward solitary

and alone, and to use his pastoral duties without horse, bride, saddle, saddle bags, sermons or change of raiment, and thus realize the oddness of the man.

During the interim between 1867-74, the Rev. Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker, Mitchell Die Damp, and James H. Lees were among the supplies for brief periods. In 1874 Rev. Augustus Hamant Hamilton took charge of Baxter church along with Liberty and Hattersville and served two years. He resigned this charge to accept a call to Mt. Carmel church, Lexington Presbytery, Rockbridge county. His success as pastor, home mission, promoter, and religious educator has given him quite a reputation in the synod of Virginia. Pastor Hamilton was succeeded by Rev. J. M. H. McCowan in 1877, and he served the church until 1888, when he retired on account of broken health. Should his ministerial friends and others visit New Market church near Lexington, Va., as I did eight years ago, they will hear many nice things said about Bro. McCowan's usefulness as Sabbath school promoter, Bible Class Teacher, and occasional pulpit supply, that have characterized the years of his invalidism. Rev. J. H. McCowan was succeeded by the writer of these notes in a service of three or four years. My testimony is such that no minister ought to wish for better or more loyal friends than the membership of Baxter church.

Nevertheless I had an experience more similar to the experience I have found everywhere I have served in the gospel ministry from April 1857 to August 1908, in the two Virginias. You will notice I am celebrating my personal semi centennial as well as that of Baxter church, twenty eight years of my service in Lexington Presbytery and twenty three in Greenbrier Presbytery. Everywhere I have served I have found an experience that makes the reading and study of certain scriptures have a rather depressing influence upon my mind. To make my meaning plain I will repeat this by way of explanation from 1st Corinthians 1:28. "Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (opinion). For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe that there are contentions among you. Now thus I say (or mean) that every one of you saith I am of Paul; and I of Apollon; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul? Now when I come to reflect that victory never perches on the standards of a divided army, the emphatic question will not down what can there be coming to the Sacramental Host if things continue to be as I have experienced them everywhere I have been posted for service. I have been compelled with sadness of heart to feel that it requires a faith that prides too far for me into the future to discern any triumph that is nigh or may be brought near in such premises. In the vacation of 1890 seminary John Vallandigham McCa'l, of Texas, occupied this church and points adjacent. He was strenuous and worked with extraordinary enthusiasm and persistent endeavor. He loved to sing and his stentorian voice would make the forests reecho as he journeyed from appointment to appointment. When met and accosted, "Why Brother McCa'l you seem merry)

I am and don't you forget it. I am the child of a King," and spurring his horse would lope away singing as he went.

"I'm the child of a King,
The child of a King;
With Jesus my Saviour,
I'm the child of a King."

Those familiar with the religious papers have noticed how Mr. McCa'l makes things restless in the Texas Synod, in his earnest adherence to the faith delivered to the saints once for all as he is given to see it.

W. T. P.

Hinton, West Virginia,
September 8, 1908.

I have determined to undertake to write a history of the lower New River and Greenbrier Valley settlements, from the early pioneer days down to the present, including the territory west of Marlinton. Johnston's excellent History of the Middle New River Settlements covers the territory east. This history will be intended to cover the large territory west of the Alleghenies to the Kanawha, not including the Pocahontas region of which Dr Price has written a most valuable history. It will be intended to cover Greenbrier, Monroe Summers, Fayette, Raleigh and Wyoming; the latter not being strictly in the general scheme, but includes a territory rich in historical traditions which should be preserved to posterity.

I take this method of requesting that all persons who feel an interest in the preservation of the history of the region named, to the future, will aid me by securing and sending me data of any historical and traditional incidents; also biographical data. I shall thank all who aid me in securing reliable facts. Write me the outlines and I will prepare for publication.

Respectfully,
JAS. H. MILLER.

fore, that every voter shall appear before the registrar in his precinct and see that he is properly registered, for otherwise he will be unable to vote when it is too late, and he was one of those whose presence was required by the registrar, and his vote will be lost. The new law may not have been enacted with the intention to allow partisan registrars to keep legal voters off the books, but if a partisan legislature has desired to enact a law with that object it could hardly have framed one more to the purpose. See the registration officer at once and make sure that your name is on the book.

Unwritten West Virginia State History.

Clerk of the Supreme court of Appeals William B. Mathews has compiled most interesting data regarding the organization of the West Virginia Legislatures from the formation of the State up to the present time. As an historical document, it is of value while it also is of great interest to the present generation. It's compilation consumed much time and careful research, and contributes a valuable chapter to the unwritten history of West Virginia.

Mr. Mathews' compilation follows in detail:

THE LEGISLATURES.

Twenty men have been president of the Senate and twenty-five speakers of the House, yet there have only been forty-four men in both offices since Hon. A. E. Summers was an occupant of the chair in each body. Although the former office is practically that of a Lieutenant Governor, only one man has served as Governor by virtue of this as President of the Senate, and that was Hon. D. T. Farnsworth, Governor for the last five days of the term of Governor A. I. Boreman, who resigned to go to Washington to take a seat in the United States Senate.

One President of the Senate, Hon. Wm. E. Stevenson, and one speaker of the House, Hon. E. Willis Wilson succeeded to the Governor's chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICERS.

The presiding officers in the Legislature have come from all

The recent big show at Marlinton presented a very suggestive street parade. Those of our esteemed readers who may have been present have it in their power to say that they have seen a mass of the largest elephants known to be in the world. This is so because King of P. C. has a crowd of the largest elephants that have had their power to stay. Hitherto the feature of the animated scene that presented itself most interesting to a spectator from the River view was the number of attendants of the wives and daughters of the Pocahontas farmers. Previous to seeing what was such in evidence, I would have thought it impossible for Pocahontas county to present such a display of glorious womanhood, so attractive in form, feature and attire. Without their presence there would have been no show worth speaking of as I consider matters of current interest and importance. These persons have lived at a time when the prevailing idea seems to have been that the public welfare, so far as the civil government is concerned, is best promoted by legislating so as to make the well-to-do prosperous then their prosperity will leak through on those below. From appearances at Marlinton on show day it looks as if there had been a goodly prosperity leakage on the masses of our great county. The aristocracy of the day is endeavoring to conceal the fact that the article of the attractive attire from bonnet to shoe worn upon the occasion by wives and daughters bit has done its part in making the well-to-do element prosperous so as to get the share of the leakage that was much in evidence. Just here it may be mentioned there is another idea that is trying very earnestly to get the public attention. The idea is this, if legislation be to make the masses well to do, or prosperous their prosperity will find its way upward through every class that rests upon the masses or the people at large. Such legislation is meant by the principle of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, or in other words, the greatest good to the greatest number. On the 3rd of November, 1908, it will be up to the masses whether they will have legislation to make them the well to do elements of American citizenship as represented by the farmers and the laboring interests. And as the famous Thomas Ritchie used to say so emphatically sixty years ago, "we shall see what we will see."

General Order No 2

All Confederate Veteran Camps in good standing belonging to the W. Va. Division, will appoint delegates to a Convention to be held at Beverly, Randolph county, at 10 o'clock a. m., Sept. 29th, 1908, to transact any and all business that may come before it. Each camp will be entitled to one delegate for every twenty active members in good standing, and one additional one for a fraction of ten members, provided that every camp in good standing shall be entitled to at least two delegates. The Convention of delegates will be held on the 29th. The parade and unveiling ceremonies will take place on Sept. 30th, at 10 o'clock a. m., 1908.

By order of
MAJ. GENERAL ROBERT WHITE,
A. C. L. GATEWOOD,
Adj't General and Chief of Staff.

SPRING WHEAT CROP SHOWS AN INCREASE.

Estimated Yield of 240,000,000 Bushels, or 22,000,000 More Than Last Year.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Figures of the Government crop report indicate a total yield of wheat of 240,000,000 bushels, 2,983,597,000 bushels of corn, 825,808,000 bushels of oats, 30,921,000 bushels of rye, 133,133,000 bushels of barley, and 133,000,000 bushels of sorghum. The yield of wheat is an increase of 67,743,000 bushels over the crop of 172,257,000 bushels of 1907. Good average yields of flaxseed and buckwheat are also indicated by the figures published.

While the crops of wheat and corn and oats are fair, disappointment was expressed at the deterioration reported by the Government in spring wheat and corn. During August corn deteriorated from a condition of 83.5 to 79.4, which reduced into bushels means an indicated loss of 120,000,000 bushels of corn. Spring wheat deteriorated from a condition of 80.7 at the beginning of August to 77.6 on September 1. This decrease in percentage conditions means an indicated reduction in the spring wheat yield of 9,000,000 bushels. The indicated crop of spring wheat is now 240,856,000 bushels. The total yield of wheat amounting to 466,796,000 bushels now indicated, exceeds last year's final yield by 30,000,000 bushels, but falls short of the crop of 1906 by 7,000,000 bushels.

WRIGHT'S MACHINE A REAL WONDER.

Aeroplane Soars Aloft With the Grace of a Bird.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Orville Wright at 5.30 started his aeroplane on what proved to be in many ways the most remarkable public exhibition by a machine of the type ever given in this country. He glided off the starting track and into the air as gracefully as a swan would swim out on a park lake, made five and a half circuits of the cavalry grounds, remained aloft four and a half minutes and came to earth at the entrance of the tent in which the machine is started as easily and as

and appearing each time the aeroplane came near the spectators on its rounds was Glen H. Curtis, inventor and navigator of the June Bug, the most formidable rival of the Wright machine. Curtis made no comment afterward other than to say that it was a splendid feat, but it was plain that he was puzzled and enthused.

For full 200 feet the skids grazed the weeds and grass. The navigator pulled the right lever ever so slightly and the balancing planes were seen to tilt upward. By easy stages, but sailing swiftly, the great machine rose to a height of twenty-five feet. Another pull at the same lever and Wright had it sailing on an even keel.

Approaching the housing tent he guided to the left, circled the lower side of the parade ground, flying close to Arlington Cemetery, and headed for the starting point. At times he sailed as high as fifty feet and as low as twenty-five. The wobbling which he spoke of afterward was not perceptible to the naked eye.

Lieut. Lahm and Major Squires, in charge of the trials, had given orders that the crowd should be kept far back from the parade ground but when the great airship swept by cavalrymen and artillerymen had to battle with 600 enthusiasts.

BROTHERS REUNITED AFTER 45 YEARS.

Jacob Gould of Aberdeen, Wash., and T. B. Gould, His Brother, Meet.

Middletown, N. Y., Sept. 10.—After forty-five years, Jacob Gould of Aberdeen, Wash., and Thomas B. Gould, formerly chief of police of this city, have been reunited at the home of the latter here.

The brothers had not seen each other since 1863, and until a short time ago, each had supposed the other dead.

Through seeing each other's name in the newspapers the brother's learned of the address, a correspondence followed and a joyous reunion is the result.

THE SULTAN YIELDS.

Sultan of Turkey Will Thus Guarantee the New Loans.

Constantinople, Turkey, Sept. 10.—The newspaper organ of the Young Turkey Committee states that the Sultan has announced his intention to surrender the Crown domains, yielding a yearly revenue of \$2,000,000, as a guarantee for the forthcoming loans for the treasury and civil list.

Danced Himself to Death.

Pittsburg, Sept. 8.—Albert Hulton, a young mulatto, danced himself to death. He paid the operator of a hurdy-gurdy, to which he danced, and a crowd that gathered continued the payments. The police finally interfered, and Hulton retired to his room, where he died from heart disease, due to over-exertion.